

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

As examples of systems without a camshaft, involving an electrical operating principle, mention may be made of ~~DE 330 707 070~~ DE 33 07 070, US No 4 375 793 and EP 0 390 519. A system without a camshaft involving a pneumatic operating principle is shown in DE 37 39 775 and US No 5 193 495. A system without a camshaft with a hydraulic operating principle is shown in DE 20 08 668, DE 39 09 822 A1, DE 38 33 459, DE 38 36 725, ~~EP 0 19 376~~ EP 0 191 376, ~~WO 84/01654~~, ~~US No 5 272 136~~ US 5 275 136 and US No 5 829 396. Systems based on a mechanical operating principle, without a camshaft, are shown in DE 20 06 618, DE 23 63 891, DE 24 28 915. DE 368 775, ~~US No 4 231 130~~ US 4 231 330, DE 31 26 620, DE 33 26 096, DE 34 15 245, DE 38 00 347, DE 40 36 279, DE 36 21 080, ~~DE 30 15 005~~, US No 5 103 779, ~~DE 21 05 542~~ DE 21 01 542 and DE 29 26 327.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

By virtue of their high level of power density hydraulic drives permit compact structures to be achieved. In the above-specified patents only a small part of the power supplied involves intermediate storage. Therefore those circuitry configurations require high levels of connection power. US patent ~~No 5 272 136~~ 5 275 136 is discussed in the specific description as representative of the state of the art. In the embodiment of a valve drive in accordance with that patent, partial energy recovery is achieved. A great

problem with that arrangement however is that the hydraulic valves are opened and closed at the greatest valve speeds and thus with the greatest volume flows. As a result, by virtue of finite valve speeds, energy is converted into heat by throttle losses. In other patents the energy involved is not recovered at all. Those valve drives therefore involve a high power demand.

Please replace the abstract on page 16 with the following amended abstract:

A fully variable hydraulic valve drive ~~comprising~~ which has a hydraulic drive unit ~~which that~~ is acted upon with hydraulic fluid for opening and closing a valve, ~~wherein the~~ The drive unit of the valve in the closing or opening stroke movement acts on an intermediate storage means with hydraulic fluid under pressure, wherein this hydraulic fluid, which is stored under pressure in the intermediate storage means, then drives the drive unit of the valve again in the opposite stroke movement.